edition) Linnæus has described the Tern in the following words:—

> "a rostro ad sinciput caput nigrum usque ad oculos, tota alias alba cum levissima cinerei mixtura. rostrum et pedes sanguinei, supra femora nudi. cauda bifurcata ad basin acutissima. pedes palmipedes, ungues nigri, postico" . . . . [?].
>
> "*Rostrum* subulatum, compressum, acutum, levissime arcuatum superiori maxilla, apice nigricante alias rubro. *nares* oblongæ lineares, ita ut per *utraque* appareat foramen et aer. gibbus in inferiori maxilla. digitus medius longissimus. hinc proximus exterior dimidio brevior, posticus minimus."

There is no doubt that this refers to the Common Tern (*not* the Arctic). But there is also another thing to be observed. We find first a general description which corresponds to some extent with that in the 'Fauna Svecica,' and in this description as well it is briefly stated: "rostrum et pedes sanguinei." Then follows another paragraph with a more detailed description of bill and feet, and in that it is also mentioned, "apice nigricante alias rubro." In the 'Fauna Svecica' this appeared to him less necessary and was omitted.

I therefore have come to the conclusion that Linnæus was referring to the Common Tern and not the Arctic when he described *Sterna hirundo* in 1758.

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## XVI.—*Obituary.*

### Edward Adrian Wilson.

(Plate VIII.)

The terrible Antarctic disaster, which caused such deep and universal sorrow throughout the length and breadth of the civilised world, has deprived us of one of our most able and distinguished naturalists. How Dr. Wilson, principal

scientific member of Captain Scott's second Antarctic Expedition, perished with the leader and other heroic companions "from want and exposure" is now a matter of history and will never be forgotten. The little band of five who undertook the final advance, after overcoming almost insuperable difficulties succeeded in reaching the South Pole on the 18th of January, 1912, about a month after Captain Amundsen reached it; but on their triumphant return towards the base camp, when within eleven miles of a place known as One Ton Depôt, where safety, shelter and supplies awaited them, Captain Scott and his three remaining companions (for one had already died) were overtaken by a terrific blizzard, and all perished. It is not necessary to enter here into the harrowing details which have reached us of how these brave men died, first Seaman Edgar Evans on the 17th of February, then Captain L. E. G. Oates, 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, on the 17th of March, and finally Captain R. F. Scott, R.N., the leader of the expedition, Dr. E. A. Wilson, and Lieutenant H. R. Bowers, Royal Indian Marine, about the 29th of March. On the 12th of November following, one of the search parties, sent out under Mr. Wright, while proceeding along the old southern route sighted Captain Scott's tent and within it found the bodies of the last survivors, together with all the written records and private diaries of the Southern Party.

The heart-breaking story has been read and mourned over wherever the English language is spoken and has commanded the respectful sympathy of all nations. We have at least the satisfaction of knowing that Captain Scott and his companions lived to realise their dearest wish, and reached the goal they so ardently desired. That they should not have been spared to reap the full triumph of their great scientific undertaking will always be a matter of profound regret to their fellow countrymen.

Edward Adrian Wilson inherited his love for ornithology from his grandfather and great-uncle, Edward and Thomas B. Wilson. The latter was settled at Philadelphia, and it was he who purchased and presented to the Academy of Natural

Sciences in that city the collections of Charles Lucien Bonaparte, Prince of Canino and of Musignano, and of many others which helped to make the fame of the Museum of the Philadelphia Academy. Edward Wilson travelled in Europe and secured rare bird-skins for his brother, besides forming for himself a fine collection of humming-birds, some of which were figured in Gould's great work.

The Antarctic traveller was born on the 23rd of July, 1872, and was the son of Dr. Edward T. Wilson of Cheltenham. He was educated at Cheltenham College, and subsequently at Caius College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. and M.B., and was placed in the first-class in Part I. of the Natural Science Tripos in 1894. Subsequently, he studied at St. George's Hospital, London, but ill-health compelled him to spend some years abroad. His health had only just been re-established when he joined the 'Discovery' as a member of Captain Scott's first Antarctic Expedition in 1901, and after his trip to the polar regions he returned robust and strong.

In addition to his medical duties on the Antarctic Expedition, Wilson was appointed Vertebrate Zoologist and Artist, and his work is constantly referred to in terms of enthusiastic commendation in Scott's narrative. In one passage that writer says :—

"It would be difficult to say who is the most diligent, but perhaps the palm would be given to Wilson, who is always at work. . . . . Wilson starts his day early by an examination of the breakfast food. His next business is to see to the ventilation of the living spaces, which he does so thoroughly that when we come to breakfast there is no complaint about the freshness of the air, though occasionally people appear in fur mits as a mute protest against the temperature. He next takes the 8 o'clock meteorological observation, and after the men are told off for the work of the day his business takes him to the superintendence of those who are detailed for bird-skinning, and who carry on this work in the main hut. Under his direction a few of the men have become quite expert taxidermists, and

the collection of prepared skins is gradually growing. The rest of his day is devoted to working up sketches and zoological notes, making those delightful drawings for the *South Polar Times* without which that publication would lose much of its excellence, and performing a hundred and one kindly offices for all on board."

Wilson was the author of the descriptions of the birds and mammals in the official report on the natural history results of Scott's first expedition to the Antarctic (National Antarctic Expedition. Natural History, vol. ii., Vertebrata, Aves). The volume, which was published by the Trustees of the British Museum in 1907, is illustrated by some very beautiful pictures drawn and coloured by Wilson, and contains an account of his personal experiences and observations during the expedition. Evidence of his unusual abilities, not only as a field-naturalist and accurate observer, but also as an artist are fully demonstrated in this volume. It is of sad interest to note that copies of the last volume (the sixth) of this report, issued last year, were sent out to Scott and Wilson by the 'Terra Nova.' It would have pleased both of them to know that this monumental work had been brought to a close before the arrival of the fresh harvest of natural history specimens, which we may expect by the 'Terra Nova.'

Wilson on the first expedition visited a nesting colony of the Emperor Penguin, and the eggs of that bird brought home by the 'Discovery' were the first specimens seen in any Museum. He was then able to furnish an account of how the egg and chick are carried about and kept off the ice by being supported on the feet of the parent, and protected by a fold or lappet of heavily-feathered skin descending from the abdomen, which could not, in his opinion, be accurately described as a "pouch." His lecture on the "Life-history of the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*)," delivered at the Royal Institution on the 27th of January, 1905, was a most entertaining and altogether delightful discourse; his quiet sense of fun and humour infusing a charm and lightness to his handling of the most scientific facts. An abstract of this lecture appeared in 'The Ibis,' 1905, p. 294. A year earlier,

('Ibis,' 1904, pp. 208–213), he contributed some valuable notes on "The Birds of the Island of South Trinidad," which was visited by the 'Discovery' on the 13th of September, 1901. Subsequently on the second expedition, by making a long and arduous journey and enduring the greatest hardships, he again succeeded in reaching the breeding-ground of the Emperor Penguin at Cape Crozier in the coldest month of the Antarctic winter—a splendid performance requiring the utmost courage and enthusiasm. In this way were secured the much coveted eggs at an early stage of incubation, which it is hoped will throw some light on the early development of the Penguins (see Geogr. Journ. vol. xxxix. 1912, p. 580).

When, in 1904, a Committee of Inquiry was formed to investigate the subject of "Grouse Disease," Lord Lovat (Chairman and prime mover of the scheme) was in search of a suitable field-observer and physiologist. At the suggestion of the writer he attended the meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club held at the Restaurant Frascati on the 15th of March, 1905, for the purpose of meeting Wilson, who was exhibiting photographic slides taken by the members of the 'Discovery' Antarctic Expedition. A friendship was at once formed, Wilson's charm of manner and his quiet and modest ways endearing him to all who came in contact with him. As a result of this meeting he was appointed "Principal Field-observer, Anatomist, and Physiologist to the Inquiry" in November, 1905, and devoted most of his time to the work till the autumn of 1910, when he joined the 'Terra Nova' and sailed on his last Antarctic Expedition.

In 'The Grouse in Health and in Disease—the final Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Grouse Disease,' published in 1911, Lord Lovat writes: "It is difficult to speak highly enough of Dr. Wilson's services, for not only was he an indefatigable worker in the field, but his ornithological knowledge, his scientific training, and his artistic skill, have been of the utmost value in every branch of the Inquiry .... Dr. Wilson's personal qualities secured for him the willing assistance alike of Local Correspondents and Scientific Staff, and went far to ensure whatever success the Committee has achieved."

Another of his colleagues, Dr. A. E. Shipley, has recently expressed his high appreciation of Wilson in 'The Times' of the 11th of February, 1913 :—

"May one who for several years worked with the late Dr. E. A. Wilson offer a small tribute to one of the finest men who ever lived? Although I had known him as a pupil in Cambridge about the middle of the nineties, it was not until the departmental inquiry into the diseases of grouse was established in 1905, under the chairmanship of Lord Lovat, that I really came to know him intimately. From the beginning of our working together I appreciated the fact that my colleague was a man of the very highest character. He was indefatigable in his work, absolutely unselfish, never thinking of his own reputation, but very keen to advance knowledge and achieve results, singularly modest, with a quiet sense of fun and humour : so that he was altogether an ideal man to work with.

"Dr. Wilson was a quite remarkable field naturalist. Little that went on in the open escaped his notice. He could not only see things which the ordinary eye passes by, but he could perpetuate them on paper.

. . . . . .

"Wilson was a man of indomitable courage, one who never spared himself—characters that were appreciated to the full by Captain Scott. He was very simple in all his habits and very direct in his thought and address, loyal to his friends, staunch to any cause he took up. He had, in fact, the characters of the finest type of an English gentleman."

Wilson was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1900, and shortly afterwards joined the Club where, though not a very regular attendant at the meetings, he was one of its most popular members. In 1900 he married Oriana, daughter of the Rev. F. O. Souper, of Comberton Rectory, Cambridge.

While the Grouse Disease inquiry was proceeding, Wilson found time to prepare the illustrations for the new edition of Bell's 'British Quadrupeds,' which is at present appearing, and spent much of his time at the Natural History Museum,

working at the various subjects in which he was interested. There, as elsewhere, his premature death will always be mourned. No man was ever more beloved or more thoroughly deserved the high esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.

## Professor Robert Collett.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of our Honorary Member, Professor Collett of Christiania, which took place in that city on the 27th of January last, and was the result of a severe attack of influenza followed by inflammation of the lungs.

Robert Collett was the eldest son of the late Professor P. S. Collett and of his wife Camille Collett, a well-known Norwegian authoress. The family was of English origin, having settled in Norway towards the end of the 17th Century. He was born in Christiania on the 2nd of December, 1842, so that he was seventy years old when he died. From his earliest childhood he showed a great love of nature and of natural history studies. He was educated at a school at Lillehamen and afterwards at the University of Christiania, where he first of all studied law, but his zoological instincts soon got the upper hand. In 1871 he was appointed to a subordinate post in the Museum of Christiania; here he remained for the rest of his life, having been appointed Director in 1882, and Professor of Zoology in the University in 1884.

Collett was the author of a large number of papers and separate works dealing almost exclusively with the Vertebrate fauna of Norway and the neighbouring countries. The earliest of these, "A Review of the Avifauna of the Neighbourhood of Christiania," published in the 'Nyt Magazin' for 1864, was favourably reviewed in 'The Ibis' of the succeeding year. This was followed by many other papers and reviews dealing with Norwegian birds, while his most popular work, 'Fugleliv i det arktiske Norge,' was translated into English by A. Heneage Cocks and published in 1894 under the title 'Bird Life in Arctic Norway, a Popular Brochure.'

Together with Prof. F. Nansen he collaborated to work out the birds obtained by the former during his celebrated North Polar Expedition of 1893–96; while perhaps his most important work was on the Fishes of the Norwegian North Atlantic Expedition, published in 1880, and on those obtained by Prince Albert of Monaco on his yachts 'l'Hirondelle' and 'Princesse Alice,' published in 1896. His last years were occupied in finishing his large work on Norwegian Mammals, which was only completed last year.

Collett had many friends in England, which he visited several times, and where he was much beloved. He was full of sympathy and kindness, and always ready to help and encourage younger men and to put himself at the disposal of any who sought his advice or help.

He was elected a Foreign Member of the B. O. U. in 1873, and in 1890 was promoted to the list of Honorary Members. His contributions to the pages of 'The Ibis' are as follows:—

"On *Lanius excubitor* and *Lanius major*," Ibis, 1886, pp. 30–40.

"Further Notes on *Phylloscopus borealis* in Norway," Ibis, 1886, pp. 215–223.

"On a Breeding-Colony of *Larus eburneus* in Spitzbergen," Ibis, 1888, pp. 440–443, pl. xiii.

For some of the facts on which this memoir is based we are indebted to Professor Nansen, who kindly sent us some notices of Prof. Collett from the Norwegian newspapers, and to Mr. Grönvold for undertaking the translation of them.

## Henry John Pearson.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. H. J. Pearson, of Bramcote, Notts, which took place on 8 February at Assiût, in Egypt, where he had gone for the benefit of his health.

Henry John Pearson was born on 30 August, 1850, at Chilwell House, Notts; he was educated privately, and early went into business. He was the founder of the Beeston Foundry Company, of which he was a director up to the

date of his death, and in the management of which his brother and two sons were associated with him.

Pearson's tastes were in the direction of Arctic ornithology and travel, and he possessed one of the finest collections of Arctic birds and eggs in this country. He became a Member of the B. O. U. in 1891, but his first excursion of any importance was to the north of Norway in 1893, when he was accompanied by Mr. Edward Bidwell. The results of this journey were published in 'The Ibis' for 1894. He visited Iceland with his brother Charles in 1894, and published a useful paper on the subject in 'The Ibis' of the following year. In 1895 he enlarged the scope of his explorations; chartering a small steamer the 'Saxon,' he visited Russian Lapland, the little-known island of Kolguev, and Novaya Zemlya. As companions he had with him his brother Charles, the Rev. H. H. Slater, and Col. H. W. Feilden. The ornithological results obtained were duly published in 'The Ibis' for 1896. For 1897 he evolved a more ambitious programme, hiring the Norwegian ship 'Laura,' an old sailing-vessel with auxiliary steam-power, and again accompanied by the veteran Arctic navigator Capt. Kjeldsen as sailing-master, with Colonel Feilden and Mr. Curtis as companions, he visited Habarova, the almost unknown island of Dolgoi, Waigats, Novaya Zemlya, Lukke Land, and passing through the Matotschin Scharr entered the Kara Sea; here favoured by abnormally fine weather he examined the east coast of Lukke Land as far north as the Pachtussoff Islands—a remarkable feat. The observations on the bird-life made during this voyage, together with a complete list of the birds observed and recorded, are embodied in a joint paper by Pearson and Feilden published in 'The Ibis.'

Mr. Pearson subsequently gave the results of these two expeditions in a more extended book-form under the title 'Beyond Petsora Eastwards,' a beautifully illustrated volume with valuable appendices on the Botany and Geology of the regions visited.

Another series of ornithological observations were carried

out on the Murman coast and in Russian Lapland in the summer of 1899. The results of these were again recorded in 'The Ibis' and subsequently published in his second volume, 'Three Summers among the Birds of Lapland.'

During these excursions the eggs of many rare Arctic birds were obtained, and very full observations were made, all of which were duly recorded in our pages.

Mr. Pearson was also an enthusiastic member of the British Ornithologists' Club, and from 1903–05 served on the Committee and acted as a Vice-Chairman.

It may be stated with truth that no other Englishman since the time of John Wolley has done so much good ornithological work in the Arctic regions of Russia as Henry Pearson. An excellent observer and a most enthusiastic ornithologist, he spared no trouble or fatigue to thoroughly authenticate his observations, which are most reliable. Physically strong, of great energy and resource, he was an excellent traveller and a most agreeable companion.

The following is a list of his papers published in 'The Ibis,' and of the titles of his two separately published works:—

On a Bird-nesting Excursion to the North of Norway in 1893. By Henry J. Pearson & Edward Bidwell. Ibis, 1894, pp. 226–238.

On the Birds observed in Iceland in 1904, with a List of the Species hitherto recorded therefrom. By Henry J. & Charles E. Pearson. Ibis, 1895, pp. 237–249.

Notes on Birds observed in Russian Lapland, Kolguev, and Novaya Zemlya, in 1895. By Henry J. Pearson. With Introductory Remarks by Col. H. W. Feilden, C.M.Z.S. Ibis, 1896, pp. 199–225.

Notes on the Birds observed on Waigats, Novaya Zemlya, and Dolgoi Island, in 1897. By Henry J. Pearson. Ibis, 1898, pp. 185–208.

Notes on the Birds observed on the Northern Parts of the Murman Coast, Russian Lapland, in 1899. By Henry J. Pearson. Ibis, 1899, pp. 520–538.

Beyond Petsora Eastwards; two Summer Voyages to Novaya Zemlya and the Islands of Barents Sea. By Henry J. Pearson. With Appendices on the Botany and Geology by Col. H. W. Feilden. London, 8vo., 1899.

Three Summers among the Birds of Russian Lapland. By Henry J. Pearson. With a History of Saint Triphon's Monastery and Appendices. London, 8vo, 1904.

EDWARD ADRIAN WILSON.